

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 19, 2004. The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite an additional feature. The Amendment is supported throughout the application. In particular, see the specification at page 11, lines 3-10; page 14, line 9 through page 15, line 25; and at Figures 4, 5A, and 7-10. The amendment adds no new subject matter.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hermann et al. (U.S. 6,113,138) in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. 6,216,070). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 recites a collision determination system that includes, among other things, a plurality of acceleration sensors for mounting to a front portion of a vehicle and a plurality of timers each associated with an acceleration sensor for holding for a set time a signal representing a detected acceleration that is equal or more than a set value. Neither Hermann et al. nor Hayashi et al. suggest or disclose such a collision determination system.

In particular, Hayashi et al. fail to disclose or suggest timers associated with acceleration sensors. Instead, for avoiding malfunctions Hayashi et al. disclose that the first and second acceleration sensors shall be arranged adjacent to each other such that their output lines suffer a common noise. See Hayashi et al. at column 8, lines 1-4. Hermann et al. also fail to disclose or suggest timers associated with acceleration sensors. Accordingly, claim 1 is not obvious.

Claim 2 depends from and further limits claim 1. Therefore, it is not obvious for at least the same reasons. Claim 3 incorporates the same limitations as recited above regarding timers. Accordingly, for the same reasons, claim 3 is not obvious. Claims 4 and 5 depend from and further limit claim 3; therefore, they are not obvious for at least the same reasons.

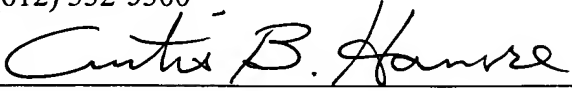
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution

of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: January 19, 2005


Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CBH/JEL:sl1

